



**NORTH WALES REGIONAL ATHLETICS COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2021
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Present: P. Brooks (P.B.), K. Hatton (K.H.), J. Hatton (J.H.), C. Backshall (C.B.), N. Holmes (N.H.), E. Brewer (E.B.), K. Clark (K.C.), A. Lewis (A.L.), B. Edwards (B.E.) and R. Mackey (R.M.).

Apologies for Absence: D. Davies and E. Geal.

1.0 Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising: (previous minutes in italics): Accepted as a true record. Nothing further.

2.0 Chair's address: K.H. reported (a) the Virtual Regional half marathon championships had been won by Sam Bellis (Buckley) and Rachel Shipley (Abergele) (b) the National virtual road relay championships are being held this weekend with 871 entries from across Wales and the Regional virtual 10 miles championships are being held on the 20th/21st of this month (replacing the Rhyl 10 race) (c) the National senior and junior cross country championships and the Regional indoor track and field (t&f) championships have been cancelled (d) B.E. confirmed that Menai t&f have been granted funding towards repairs to Treborth and for additional events and K.H. stated that there will be a small allocation of funds for Deeside's track (e) details of virtual webinars and conferences from C. Moss and E.B. (f) she had raised the issues with the Trinity system at General Council; Welsh Athletics (W.A.) are looking at improving the whole system (g) East and South Regions have cancelled their joint Regional t&f championships; after debate it was agreed that the North will do likewise and look at the possibility of holding smaller competitions over the course of the summer (h) K.H. has submitted our annual order for medals to W.A., but there are problems with the supplier in China.

3.0 Treasurer's Report: D.D. had sent a written report confirming that (a) the balances in both accounts are unchanged from the last meeting (b) our annual budget request has been sent to W.A., asking for repayment of the overspend on Sportshall and an estimated amount to cover the secretary's and chair's expenses.

4.0 Regional 5 miles road running championships: (a) S. McCormack had written to say that the Abergele 5 miles race would no longer be held due to problems of safety on the course and would instead be holding a 5km race. (b) P.B. had emailed both Cybi Striders and Meirionnydd R.C. about hosting the Regional championships and only the former had replied. After debate, it was agreed to award the event to Cybi Striders and the Breakwater race on 28th August. K.C. agreed to keep 150 spaces reserved for championship entries and if current



- 2 -

4 (b) Ctd. Regional 5 miles road running championships:

Covid-19 restrictions are still in place on that date, the race will be held virtually. It was noted that the Regional half marathon championships at the Village Bakery race in Wrexham and the Jones Crisps half marathon in Anglesey had both rearranged their dates to 5th September.

5.0 Proposal from the Secretary:

To set up a North Wales “Hall of Fame” to recognise and reward coaches and Club officials who have retired from athletics after a minimum of twenty years active service”. Proposed by R.M. and seconded by C.B. After debate, the proposal was agreed and P.B. will report back to the next meeting on costs of plaques/other awards and give a list of suggested names for such awards.

5.1 Regional reports:

5.1.1 Track and Field: C.B. reported (a) that Colwyn Bay A.C. are to meet the local authority and other interested parties regarding repair work on the track at Eirias Park (b) both Deeside’s and Wrexham’s track are under consideration for cosmetic repairs (c) the next W.A. committee meeting is set for the 7th April.

5.1.2 Trail and Mountain/Fell: A.L. presented a written report on (a) International opportunities: British mountain and Senior Home international at Sedberg 5th June; W.M.R.A. U18 Cup at Ambleside 24th July; International Snowdon race on 17th July (now cancelled); British & Irish junior championships at Newcastle N.I. on 11th September; Smarna Goat race in Slovenia on 2nd October; Trofeo Vanoni relays, in Morbegno, Italy in October (date t.b.c.); E.A. mountain & I.A.A.F. trail championships in Portugal on 3rd July; World mountain and trail championships on 11th-14th November in Thailand. (b) W.M.R.A. individual entry opportunities: European Masters championships in Italy 28th-30th May; W.M.R.A. and W.M.A. Masters championships in Austria on 3rd-5th September (c) a list of dates and venues for W.M.R.A. World Cup events. (d) the minutes of the Mountain Running Advisory Group meeting of 20th January 2021.

5.1.3 Cross Country: No report.

5.1.4 Road Running: Nothing further.

5.1.5 Development Officers:

5.1.6 Barry Edwards presented a written report on (a) athletics facilities update (b) competitions update (c) community athletics (d) starting blocks initiative in Anglesey and Gwynedd (e) schools athletics (f) Club



- 3 -

5.1.6 Ctd Development Officers: modernisation and development fund (g) Sport Wales funding (h) Coach and Officials education (i) W.A. conferences (j) female coach ambassadors (k) National awards.

6.0 Secretary: P.B. had circulated a written report that he and K.H. had attended a meeting of Regional Chairs and Secretaries. Bullet points included (a) amendments to current Covid-19 restrictions now allowing 2 runners to run together with social distancing and some elite athletes have been granted exemptions (b) a submission has been made to the Senedd to hold 2 throws meetings and a 10km race in Newport (c) there will be a follow-up on those who have completed leadership in running courses (d) Buckley R.C. and Deestriders had both received letters from N.W.P. concerning groups of runners breaking current restrictions; both Clubs stated that the runners concerned were not members of those Clubs and that they are not currently meeting for training purposes.

7.0 Officials Secretaries:

7.1 Endurance: P.B. had attended a meeting of this committee and circulated the bullet points: (a) a new secretary was in place, Christine Vorres and a W.A. email is being allocated to her (b) the make-up of the committee was discussed and the amended “welcome pack” for new officials examined. He had asked that a delegate be included for ultra-running (c) a virtual conference is to be held on 7th March and a draft timetable will be sent out this week (d) on-line courses for level 1 officials and risk awareness are under preparation (e) the last-minute cancellation of the Pontypool cross country event, after objections from the Police (f) W.A. are hoping to go “cashless” in time for the start of the next financial year on 1st April.

7.2 Track and field: no report.

8.0: A.O.B.: (a) Regional vests: K.H. reported that S. McCormack had resigned as the holder of our vest stock, so we are now seeking a volunteer for this post. Our current supplier has a minimum order requirement of six vests. P.B. noted that our vests are not of a standard design, so costing may be more expensive than standard Club kit. To date we have no volunteers and after a discussion it was agreed to look into athletes ordering kit online from an agreed supplier, as in the East Region. K.H. will contact the current supplier to ascertain if they would be willing to supply kit on this basis. If not, other suppliers will be considered. (b) K.H. mentioned the Modernisation & Development Fund that B.E. had circulated details on. NWRAC do not currently have a website and K.H. has obtained a quote based on that of the East Region, which has received funding. K.H. recommended that we



- 4 -

8.0 A.O.B. Ctd. (b): apply for a grant through this fund, and after a discussion it was agreed she and B.E. would liaise on making the application. B.E. may include planned competition costs and will seek advice from C Moss if necessary. (c) B.E. reported that funds from W.A. were not released last year for small events, but that Menai t&f will be reapplying this year and are seeking to include the cost of track hire and photo finish equipment hire should permission be granted to proceed with the planned events (d) the position of Safeguarding Officer for the Region remains unfilled. It was agreed that E.B. will add a piece to our Facebook pager and P.B. will also circulate our Clubs (e) A.L. also further reported that Ras y Arran has been cancelled and that the Regional mountain running championships are to move to a date in September.

9.0: Date and Venue of the next meeting: The next meeting will be held virtually on Friday 9th April, and will commence at 7.00 p.m.